GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3842
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000
TUBERCULOSIS
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Revised TB Plan may save 10,000 lives monthly` appearing in `Indian Express` dated March 12, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a national mission for tackling the serious problems like tuberculosis;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (c) Yes Sir. The news report refers to the fidings of the Government of India and WHO Joint Review Mission on implementation of Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) in India.The report takes note of the Review Mission`s observations that DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, short course) under which patients have to take medicines under the direct supervision of health workers, is being implemented successfully in the country under the RNTCP, achieving a cure rate of more than 80% and saving more than 40,000 lives so far.
In view of the efficacy of the revised programme, Government has decided to continue with the expansion of RNTCP to cover a population of 400 million by the year 2002.

(d) to (f) The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) was introduced in 1997, with the aim of curing at least 85% of new sputum +ve cases and detect at least 70% of such cases, after pilot testing this revised strategy in 1993-94. Under this programme good quality of diagnosis by smear microscopy, uninterrupted supply of drugs, systematic monitoring and evaluation, effective supervision of treatment is ensured. Since this programme is being implemented successfully, there is no proposal to set up a separate national mission for combating TB.